DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR





### TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors ROSS M. HIGASHI EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN PATRICK H. MCCAIN EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION 869 PUNCHBOWL STREET HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

## April 12, 2022 3:00 P.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 224/Teleconference

### G.M. 846

### Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Highway Safety Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, EDWARD WERNER, for a term to expire 6-30-22.

### Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is in **strong support** of the nomination of Edward Werner to the State Highway Safety Council (SHSC).

Chapter 286-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, establishes the SHSC which advises the Governor on matters relating to the programs and activities of the state in the field of highway safety. The state has adjusted the makeup of the committee from a group that was primarily government officials and safety advocates, to one that includes cross sections of all users of the highway system in our community. We believe the Gubernatorial Nominees will bring knowledge, experience and passion that will add tremendously to a council that will advise the department on eliminating roadway fatalities while modernizing the system to meet the current and future needs of our state.

Mr. Werner, and his wife Paula, became strong community advocates for roadway safety after their son Kaulana was killed by a drunk driver in Nanakuli. They have dedicated many hours building community awareness of the dangers of impaired driving, distracted driving, and speeding. Their determination led to creation of Kaulana's Law in 2017, which enhanced criminal penalties for individuals convicted of drunk driving and negligent homicide.

Mr. Werner's efforts include multiple community highway safety events on Oahu's Leeward Coast which include partnerships such as the DOT, Hawaii Department of Education, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Hawaii Bicycling League, DTRIC Insurance, Honolulu Police Department, Honolulu Emergency Medical Services,

Kamehameha Schools, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawaii Building & Construction Trades Council, the Nanakuli Neighborhood Board, and the Leeward coast community.

Mr. Werner's community-focused advocacy, passionate approach to highway safety, and "improve safety for all now" mentality will be tremendous adds to the SHSC.

The DOT respectfully requests that this Committee confirm Edward Warner to the SHSC, whose members serve without compensation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU



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RICK BLANGIARDI MAYOR



J. ROGER MORTON DIRECTOR

JON Y. NOUCHI DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (TRS)

APRIL 12, 2022

## IN SUPPORT OF

### GM 846/GM 847 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Highway Safety Council, Gubernatorial Nominee EDWARD WERNER terms to expire 6-30-2022 and 6-30-2026 (respectively)

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services (DTS) supports the appointment of Mr. Edward Werner to the State Highway Safety Council.

Safety for all users of roads and highways is paramount. DTS is responsible for promoting the safe, efficient, and effective use and operation of the City's streets, administering the City's bikeway, pedestrian and traffic safety education programs, and implementing Honolulu's Complete Streets and Vision Zero programs. The work of the State Highway Safety Council is aligned with the DTS mission and objectives related to traffic safety.

It is important this council is diverse and representative of all users of the State's highways, and Mr. Werner will be an excellent addition with his experience and work as a staunch and vocal advocate for improved safety. It is unfortunate that Mr. Werner and his family know the reality of traffic fatalities; his teenage son was killed by a drunk driver on Farrington Highway near their home. Following this tragic event, both Mr. Werner and his wife, Paula, work constantly to raise community awareness about the harms of driving under the influence and how to prevent crashes and traffic fatalities. The inclusion of this voice and experience on the State Highway Safety Council ensures the safety solutions are realistic and workable.

Thank you for consideration of this measure and for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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# **IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND**

April 7, 2022

Chris Lee, Chair Committee on Transportation Senate State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

# Dear Honorable Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Transportation:

## Re: Support for Edward Werner. - GM846 & GM847 State Highway Safety Council

I would like to state that we are in strong support of Mr. Edward Werner to serve on the State Highway Safety Council.

Mr. Werner has been an embodiment of highway safety for the west side of Oahu. After the unfortunate incident where he lost his son Kaulana to a drunk driver, Mr. Werner has been at the

forefront in sign-waving during the holidays to tell people not to drink and drive. Additionally, he assisted in putting highway speed bumps in the Nanakuli area. He knows these are just several examples to reduce possible fatalities, however; Mr. Werner's dedication is an example we should learn from. His caring attitude and positive outlook will assist this council.

Edward has always been part of the community. His dedication to Hawaii can be seen through his leadership in various organizations. He truly believes that we must assist and better Hawaii for our future and support the working men and women of Hawaii. He knows that if we do our part we all can save lives

I strongly support Edward Werner to be on the State Highway Safety Council. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincrerely,

Cone lan T. George Paris Managing Director





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### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII STATE CAPITOL HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair Committee on Transportation Hawaii State Senate

Dear Chair Lee:

Subject: GM 846 & GM 847 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Highway Safety Council, Gubernatorial Nominee EDWARD WERNER terms to expire 6-30-2022 and 6-30-2026 (respectively)

I am honored to write this letter of very strong support for the confirmation of Mr. Edward Werner's appointment to the State Highway Safety Council.

Mr. Werner, known to many as Uncle Eddie, is a lifelong resident of Nanakuli, a servant leader, and a recognized voice in our community who tirelessly advocates for safety on our roads. Both Uncle Eddie and his wife Paula are passionate about preventing traffic fatalities as they know firsthand the grief and heartbreak from losing their son in 2016, and other loved ones since then, to driving under the influence and distracted driving. I have joined the Werner 'Ohana in a number of the sign waving events they've coordinated to remind drivers along Farrington Highway to slow down and drive safely. In addition to sign waving and community awareness campaigns, Uncle Eddie has advocated for legislation to extend prison terms for offenders convicted of first-degree negligent homicide, when the offender fails to render aid to the injured at the scene of an accident.

Since the start of 2022, 35 people have lost their lives on our roads including two members of the Werner family. These deaths are senseless and entirely preventable. The State Highway Safety Council has a serious and important kuleana, but I have great confidence that Uncle Eddie's appointment to this council will bring an informed voice of the community that positively impacts how safety improvements are developed. Please advise and consent to this appointment.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

toclynut MEL.

Stacelynn K. M. Eli Representative



### <u>GM-846</u> Submitted on: 4/11/2022 9:13:48 PM Testimony for TRS on 4/12/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Testify
Chad K Taniguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The State Highway Safety Council will become stronger and more effective with Eddie Werner as a member.

I have worked with Eddie Werner since 2016, when there were six pedestrians killed in a sixmonth period in Nanakuli and Waianae. The Hawaii Bicycling League worked with DOT, local businesses, and local families to install pedestrian crossing flags as an additional safety measure while waiting for more permanent engineering safety countermeasures to be installed.

Memorial walks and bike rides were held to honor the memory of those people who suffered from traffic violence and to remind people of valuable lives needlessly lost. Solutions meetings were held to push for ways to prevent similar tragedies from happening again.

Eddie Werner will be a valuable member of the State Highway Safety Council, bringing his family's commitment to safe streets. As a grass-roots community member he tirelessly speaks to other community members and organizes community, police, agency, and legislative support for safety.